

Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services

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What They Do

Light or Delivery Services Truck Drivers drive trucks that carry less than three tons. They normally move products and materials to and from local area places such as factories, warehouses, train stations, airports, private homes, office buildings, and stores. Drivers usually load or unload the merchandise at the customer's place of business. They may have helpers such as material handlers to load the truck according to the order of delivery. At the beginning of the shift, Drivers obtain a delivery schedule from the dispatcher. Upon arrival at the customer's place of business, the Driver unloads the shipment and the customer signs a receipt for the goods. Sometimes payment is made directly to the Driver. At the end of their shift, the Driver turns in receipts, money received, records of delivery, and reports of any mechanical problems.

Light Truck Drivers who sell company products to customers are called Driver/Sales Workers. They are responsible for delivering their company's product and also representing the company. Their response to customer complaints and requests can make the difference between a large order and a lost customer. Driver/Sales Workers' duties vary greatly depending upon the industry in which they work. Most work on wholesale routes that deliver to businesses and stores, rather than to homes. They may take orders and collect payments. Driver/Sales Workers may recommend changes in a store's order or encourage the manager to stock new products. They also seek new orders from businesses along their route.

Tasks

- ▶ Drive vehicles with capacities under three tons in order to transport materials to and from specified destinations such as railroad stations, plants, residences and offices, or within industrial yards.
- ▶ Inspect and maintain vehicle supplies and equipment, such as gas, oil, water, tires, lights, and brakes in order to ensure that vehicles are in proper working condition.
- ▶ Load and unload trucks, vans, or automobiles.
- ▶ Obey traffic laws, and follow established traffic and transportation procedures.
- ▶ Read maps, and follow written and verbal geographic directions.
- ▶ Verify the contents of inventory loads against shipping papers.
- ▶ Maintain records such as vehicle logs, records of cargo, or billing statements, in accordance with regulations.

Detailed descriptions of this occupation may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.

Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services

Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ▶ Operation and Control — Controlling operations of equipment or systems.
- ▶ Transportation — Knowledge of principles and methods for moving people or goods by air, rail, sea, or road, including the relative costs and benefits.
- ▶ Mechanical — Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
- ▶ Geography — Knowledge of principles and methods for describing the features of land, sea, and air masses, including their physical characteristics, locations, interrelationships, and distribution of plant, animal, and human life.
- ▶ Public Safety and Security — Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.
- ▶ Spatial Orientation — The ability to know your location in relation to the environment or to know where other objects are in relation to you.
- ▶ Reaction Time — The ability to quickly respond (with the hand, finger, or foot) to a signal (sound, light, picture) when it appears.
- ▶ Far Vision — The ability to see details at a distance.
- ▶ Static Strength — The ability to exert maximum muscle force to lift, push, pull, or carry objects.

Work Environment

Light or Delivery Services Truck Drivers may drive for several hours at a stretch, unloading cargo, and making many deliveries which can be tiring. Local Truck Drivers frequently work 50 or more hours a week and usually return home in the evening. Drivers who handle food for chain grocery stores, produce markets, or bakeries typically work long hours, starting at night or early in the morning. Most Drivers have regular routes, although some have different routes each day. Many Truck Drivers, especially Driver/Sales Workers, load and unload their own trucks. This requires considerable lifting, carrying, and walking each day.

California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California Outlook and Wage table below represents the occupation across all industries.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2004	Estimated Number of Workers 2014	Average Annual Openings	2006 Wage Range (per hour)
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services				
53-3033	116,500	140,200	3,440	\$9.31 to \$16.09

Wages do not reflect self-employment.

Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.

Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov, Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

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Trends

Employment of Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations over the 2004-2014 period. The need for local deliveries has grown due to the constant development of shopping centers, homes, and malls. This growth spurs a need for Light Truck Drivers to make more deliveries from central warehouses in order to meet customer demand.

Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ▶ High school diploma or equivalent
- ▶ Adult education
- ▶ Regional occupational programs
- ▶ Vocational schools
- ▶ Truck driving schools
- ▶ Extensive on-the-job training

Drivers also must possess a valid California driver's license and a good driving record. If Light Truck Drivers wish to advance, there are a wide variety of heavy truck driving training programs available through vocational and truck driving schools.

Recommended High School Course Work

High School preparation courses in driver training, automotive mechanics, accounting, general business, business mathematics, and computer technology are helpful. Accounting and business classes are particularly helpful for those who plan to enter self-employment.

Where Do I Find the Job?

Direct application to employers remains one of the most effective job search methods.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to locate employers in your area. Search using keywords from the following manufacturing industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ▶ Couriers
- ▶ General Freight Trucking, Local
- ▶ Other Grocery & Related Products Merchant
- ▶ Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Merchant
- ▶ Packaged Frozen Food Merchant
- ▶ General Line Grocery Merchant
- ▶ Meat & Meat Product Merchant
- ▶ Fish & Seafood Merchant
- ▶ Dairy Product Merchant
- ▶ General Warehousing & Storage
- ▶ Other Warehousing & Storage
- ▶ Refrigerated Warehousing & Storage

Search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- ▶ Brokers, Motor Transportation
- ▶ Delivery Service
- ▶ Trucking
- ▶ Trucking Motor Freight

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Where Can The Job Lead?

Advancement opportunities for Light Truck Drivers are a bit limited. Light Truck Drivers may become driver trainers, supervisors of warehouses, terminals, and docks or company branch managers. Drivers often change employers for better pay, different kinds of driving experience, more responsibility, or better working conditions. Local or Light Truck Drivers may also advance to driving heavy or special types of trucks, or transfer to long-distance truck driving. Working for companies that also employ long-distance Drivers is the best way to advance to these positions.

Other Sources of Information

American Trucking Associations
www.truckline.com

International Brotherhood of Teamsters
www.teamster.org

Professional Truck Driver Institute
www.ptdi.org